Every important matter relating to a municipality should be decided by a special meeting of the council, the decision of the majority being final.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Maluk Mahomed Abdul Khadar, of the several matters that you represented one is that municipal employees, instead of remaining under the present system of pensions, should subscribe to provident fund, to be provided with a lump sum at the conclusion of their service. The whole question of provident funds is now engaging the attention of the Government. In that connection the question of provident funds to municipal employees will also be examined.

You ask for the "provincialisation" of municipal employees. By that I presume you mean that municipal employees throughout the State should be borne on a single cadre and should be transferrable from one municipality to another. That will break down completely the individual characteristic of municipalities. They are purely bodies of local men looking after the interests and well-being of a particular localised area and if the municipal council is to have the staff "provincialised" it will mean that the appointment and transfer and disciplinary action in respect of each municipal employee will have to be controlled not by any one particular municipality but by a general body for the whole of the State, possibly the Government. I say that it will detract the local characteristic of municipalities and I do not think that idea can be entertained.

You ask for a conference of municipal Presidents. I think there was such a conference recently at Quilon and the Government will raise no objection in the way of Presidents of municipalities meeting together in conference whenever and wherever they find occasion to do so. It is purely a matter for the municipalities themselves to settle.

There are various other matters you touched upon all of which will require the amendment of the Municipalities Regulation. I am not sure whether you are voicing in those matters your own personal views or whether you are instructed by the Municipality which you represent to place these views before the Government. If the latter is the case, I think the more appropriate course would be for the municipality to pass resolutions on the subject and forward them to the Government. But in regard to such things as the procedure to be followed in the matter of appointments, money and so on, some of your suggestions are useful and they will, for the most part, be covered by the New Municipal Account Code which has recently been framed by the Account Officer.

73. Needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

MR. P. N. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) spoke on the following needs of the Trivandrum taluk:—

The lane from Kulathara on the Iranimuttom road to Mangattukadavu should be converted into a cart road and it should be extended to the Iranimuttom hospital.

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A bridge should be constructed over the Veli kayal between Katakampally and Kulathur.

The water in the Iranimuttom fields should be drained to the Killiyar.

The encroachments on the Killiar from the Killi bridge to the Pallathukadavu should be removed.

The Dhoosialkonathu tank in the Cheruvikal pakuthi should be improved and deepened as also the Muttumpurathu tank, Sastancoil tank, and the Puthukulam tank in the same pakuthi and the tank near the Thirumalai temple in the Anjamada pakuthi.

The Sirkar Middle School at Chalai should be raised to the grade of a High School.

A substantial grant-in-aid should be awarded to the Mahilamandiram at Poojapura.

A dispensary should be opened at Karamanai.

A complete system of motor traffic should be established in the town of Trivandrum, covering all the important roads in the town and the cars should be made available from 5 A. M. to 8 P. M.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Pillai, I think the question of a bridge over the Veli Kayal came up a year ago and I am not sure whether it is at this particular place.

MEMBER: I only press for the public ferry.

DEWAN: Yes, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to make enquiries and find out whether the traffic over this particular place justifies the expenditure on maintenance of a public ferry. If so, I will consider the question of establishing a ferry there.

The whole question of the Killiyar channel is now being considered by the Chief Engineer. The clearing of the silt and the proper maintenance of the bunds are some of the directions in which he is making his investigations. You may rest assured that that matter will not suffer neglect or fail to receive due consideration. Five tanks you wish to be deepened; I shall ask the Chief Engineer, the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries to examine this question. I do not think the present Sirkar Middle School at Chalai can be raised to a High School until better accommodation is provided. The present buildings are not suitable to the requirements of a High School and I doubt if even suitable for a large Middle School. So, until the question of a proper site and a new building is solved it will be premature to consider the question of raising the standard to a High School.

Your next point is about the Government grant to the Mahila Mandiram. The Government are well aware that this particular institution is doing very good work, and I personally know it is also hampered for want of funds. It is, I understand, considerably in debt as it is and the income received every month is not sufficient to cover the cost of

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maintaining the 54 small girls in the institution. I shall be prepared to consider any representation the committee of management may desire to place before Government on the matter.

MEMBER: At present they are leading a hand to mouth existence.

DEWAN: Yes, I know. In fact the only way they manage is by getting provisions on credit from shop-keepers.

Then you want a dispensary at Karamanai. The question of opening a dispensary at Karamanai was first started in 1905, when a medical conference was held proposing the closing of the old Taikad Hospital.

MEMBER: That is meant for women and children. But since then population has increased.

DEWAN: As a matter of fact, the Government had ordered the acquisition of a site and sanctioned the opening of a dispensary as early as 1907. But the Darbar Physician at the time reported that a dispensary was not necessary, as the local people can go to the Taikad or the Fort Hospital and that is why the idea of a dispensary at Karamanai proved to be not an accomplished fact. However, I shall ask the Administrative Board, Medical Services, to consider the question of a dispensary at Karamanai.

74. Needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

MR. N. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group II*) dealt with the following needs of the Trivandrum taluk: —

A road should be constructed from Mukkolakal in the Aramada Pakuthi to Trikannapuram Ghat in the Karamanai river. This was sanctioned by Government four years ago. There was already a wide foot-path there, which was being largely used by the people. The road if opened would prove a very easy short-cut from Nemom and the surrounding places to Trivandrum.

The Chakkai—Udayaniswaram road should be extended as far as Veli *kayal*. There was a trace from the Petta junction to the eastern part of the Veli *kayal* for a distance of about 3 miles, which passed through very densely populated villages. People had for a long time past been praying for the conversion of the trace into a cart road and the taluk irrigation committee had recommended the work to Government. Government however sanctioned only a portion of the road *viz.*, from Petta to Kadakampalli pakuthi cutchery, and this portion was already completed. The road should now be extended to the Veli *kayal*. The extension could be done for another mile without acquiring any lands. For the last mile also not much money would have to be spent as many land owners were willing to surrender lands free of cost.

The Chalai road from the Eastern Fort Gate to the Killiyar bridge should be widened, or in the alternative, a new road should be opened parallel to the Chalai road from the Pazhavangadi Fort Gate to the

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